



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# News Release

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### **San Diego Residents' Trash and Recycling Saves City's General Fund Approximately \$10,000,000 During Next Ten Years**

**SAN DIEGO, CA —May 27, 2005—**Today, at a press conference at the Environmental Services Department's (ESD) Operation Center, City of San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy announced a \$671,268 savings to the City's General Fund as a result of the citywide Rerouting Project. The Environmental Services Department began implementation of the Rerouting Project one year ago which remapped trash and recycling collection routes throughout the city, changed residential trash and recycling collection days and expanded yard waste collection. The Mayor also announced environmental and operational efficiencies that occurred during that first year of implementation, as well as projected savings to the General Fund of approximately \$10,000,000 during the next 10 years.

"The City's Environmental Services Department worked for more than two years to remap City collection routes that changed collection days for more than 200,000 households and expanded yard waste collection to an additional 50,000 homes and now we are seeing the benefits," said Mayor Dick Murphy. "The Rerouting Project is an excellent example of how the City can find more efficient ways to provide quality customer service while reducing expenses. Rerouting saved approximately \$700,000 from the General Fund in its first year of operation, it's estimated to save \$824,743 in the second year and thereafter \$1,000,000 per year."

The majority of the cost savings was generated by reducing 10 to 15 collection trucks from the operating fleet of 185 and decreasing the miles traveled by City collection trucks by 900 miles per day or approximately 235,000 miles yearly. As a result of the reduction in miles

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traveled, the fuel required to operate collection trucks decreased by 390 gallons of diesel per day. Environmentally, reduced mileage and fuel consumption also decreased nitrous oxide emissions by an estimated 39.8 lbs per day (5.2 tons per year), carbon dioxide emissions by 4.1 tons per day (1,068 tons per year) and particulate matter 10 emissions by 0.53 lbs per day (138 lbs per year).

This efficiency also enabled the City to expand yard waste collection from 150,000 to 200,000 homes. The increase in yard waste material collected for recycling reduced the amount of materials disposed in the Miramar Landfill which helps the City of San Diego comply with the State's AB 939 diversion mandate and avoid potential fines of \$10,000 per day. Citywide, approximately 122,000 residents of the total amount of customers who received yard waste collection converted from a weekly collection schedule to every-other-week collection.

"To develop the new collection routes, we used a computerized global positioning system that allowed us to streamline our old routes and reduce the amount of resources needed to do our job while still providing efficient service," said Elmer L. Heap, Jr., director of the ESD.

"Ultimately, by cutting back in the right areas we were able to save money, reduce harmful environmental impacts, increase operational efficiencies and offer more residents city services. I believe rerouting has helped us accomplish doing more with less!"

Operationally, the rerouting program helped make City collection drivers' workloads more balanced throughout the week because the new routes concentrated each day's collection activity in a single area, or zone, of the city. Prior to the implementation of the new routes, daily collection activity occurred in at least four different city areas and each had varying collection demands which made workloads unbalanced throughout the week. Under the new route design, there are a total of five zones, one for each day of the week, which require a more equally balanced number of collection vehicles, drivers and supervisors for each day throughout the week. Through zoning and placing the drivers and supervisors in the same area of the City each day, the workloads are evenly balanced and responses to reports of missed collection can be quickly resolved.

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“While planning the rerouting, we worked with our Labor Management Advisory Committee to ensure our plans were fair to employees,” said Heap. “We were able to decrease the amount of collection trucks in our fleet without laying off any drivers. Instead, our drivers were reassigned to new routes that were evenly distributed throughout the week. Our goal behind the entire rerouting project is efficiency but not at the expense of our employees.”

“In its first year of implementation, this program has provided additional services to residents while making better use of their tax dollars,” said City of San Diego Councilmember Brian Maienschein, District Five. I applaud the ESD for their creative and efficient approach to doing business and encourage other departments to follow their lead.”

For more information on the citywide rerouting project or to view current collection days and services provided, please visit the ESD website at [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services). The site also offers access to a printable 2005 Curbside Recycling Calendar, provides lists of what can and cannot be recycled in residents’ blue recycling bins and yard waste collection containers, and displays the City’s recognized holidays when trash, recycling and yard waste collections are delayed by one day. For more information, please call ESD’s Customer Service at (858) 694-7000.

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